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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending May 16, 2004

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Good week for Field Work: There were 5 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 7 percent short, 68 percent adequate and 25 percent surplus due to the mainly dry conditions across the state during the last week. Despite thundershowers, 85 percent of the spring tillage has been completed, which is ahead of 81 percent the previous year, and 83 percent for the five year average. Principal farm activities included spring tillage, planting of spring crops, cutting the first hay crop, spreading fertilizer, spreading manure, repairing fences and machinery, and turning livestock out to pasture for the summer.

Crops: The corn crop in Pennsylvania is currently 67 percent planted, which is ahead of last year at 51 percent, and the 5-year average of 61 percent. Corn emergence is also ahead both last year and the 5-year averages at 32 percent complete, compared to 24 percent in 2003, and 27 percent for the 5-year average. Corn emerged is at an average height of 3 inches across the state, and is rated at 2% poor, 10% fair, 52% good, and 36% excellent. Winter wheat reached 27% headed progress during the last week, compared to 15% last year and 33% for a five year average. The winter wheat crop was rated as 1 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 60 percent good and 23 percent excellent, which is all slightly improved over last week. Barley headed reached 79% last week, which is now ahead of last year average of 70% and behind the 5 year average of 80%. Oats planted is currently at 89% complete, compared to last year and the five year averages of 88% and 91%, respectively. Oats is also at 56% emerged, which is behind compared to 72% last year and 72% for a 5 year average. Oats condition is looking good with 1% very poor, 3% poor, 30% fair, 56% good and 10% excellent. Soybeans are at 27 percent planted, compared to 13 percent in 2003 and 22 percent over the last 5 years. Soybeans emerged are just at 8 percent, which is slightly ahead of last year at 3 percent and the 5-year average of 6 percent. Potato planting has reached 75% complete by the end of last week, which is ahead last year and the five year averages at 39% and 59% respectively. Alfalfa first cutting has begun and is 16 percent complete, compared to 3 percent last year and 11 percent for a 5-year average. Alfalfa stand last week was rated as 3 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 52 percent good and 23 percent was excellent. The timothy clover stand was rated 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 58 percent good and 11 percent was excellent. The quality of the hay made so far was 1% very poor, 1% poor, 15% fair, 47% good, and 36% excellent.

The fruit crop is looking good with all the sunny weather the last week. Peach condition is looking good this early with 1% rated fair, 72% at good and 27% at excellent. Apple condition also looking good this spring with 26% fair, 65% good, and 9% excellent.

Livestock: The sunny conditions and warm temperatures has pasture land in Pennsylvania rated at 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 18 percent was rated fair, 54 percent was rated good and 24 percent was rated excellent. Livestock are beginning to be turned out on pasture for the summer.

U.S. As of May 9, 2004: Dry conditions and above-normal temperatures prevailed across the western half of the Nation, while moderate precipitation fell along the East Coast and in parts of the Corn Belt. In the Pacific Northwest, Southwest, central Rockies, and Great Plains, dry conditions and above-normal temperatures favored planting of summer crops but caused moisture stress for winter wheat. Fieldwork was not greatly hampered by the light to moderate precipitation that fell

in most areas of the Corn Belt. Temperatures were below normal across most of the Mississippi Delta, and dry conditions were favorable for planting cotton. In the Southeast, light to moderate precipitation fell in most areas, with the heaviest rainfall helping to alleviate soil moisture shortages in coastal areas. Rainfall was moderate along the middle and northern Atlantic Coast, with near-normal temperatures. Corn: Growers had planted 84 percent of the Nation's corn crop, 22 percentage points ahead of last year and 21 points ahead of normal. Thirty-six percent of the crop had emerged, compared with 21 percent last year and 24 percent for the 5-year average. Planting progressed steadily across most of the Corn Belt, despite moderate rainfall in some areas, and remained well ahead of the normal pace. In Wisconsin, growers planted 40 percent of their acreage as soil temperatures increased. In the Great Plains, planting progressed rapidly, with Nebraska and South Dakota producers planting 33 and 38 percent of their crop, respectively. Emergence progressed rapidly in the southern Corn Belt, advancing by 28 points in Illinois, 24 points in Indiana, and 27 points in Iowa. Soybeans: Planting advanced to 35 percent complete, compared with 14 percent last year and 21 percent for the 5-year average. Planting was most advanced in Mississippi, where 89 percent of the crop had been planted. As corn planting neared completion across most of the Corn Belt, growers turned to planting soybeans and progressed rapidly. Producers in Iowa planted 42 percent of their acreage, while Illinois, Indiana, and Minnesota growers planted one-fourth or more of their expected acreage. Planting progress was ahead of the normal pace in all States, except Kansas, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Winter Wheat: Fifty-five percent of the crop was at or beyond the heading stage, 5 points ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of normal. Heading neared completion in Arkansas, California, and Oklahoma. Heading rapidly advanced in the central Great Plains and the Corn Belt, where 51 percent of Illinois' crop, 35 percent of Kansas' crop, and 41 percent of Missouri's crop reached the heading stage. Crop condition declined in the Great Plains due to hot weather and moisture stress. Sorghum: Twenty-nine percent of the crop had been planted, 3 points ahead of last year and the average. Progress was most advanced in Louisiana and Arkansas, where growers had planted 81 and 69 percent of the crop, respectively. In Texas, planting was 55 percent complete, 6 points ahead of normal, while Illinois producers, at 21 percent complete, were 10 points ahead of normal. South Dakota growers began planting, leaving New Mexico as the only State where planting had not begun. Small Grains: Spring wheat was 84 percent planted, 17 points ahead of last year and 26 points ahead of normal. Emergence, at 49 percent complete, was 12 points ahead of last year and 20 points ahead of the 5-year average. Planting in South Dakota and Washington was completed over 1 week ahead of the normal pace. North Dakota producers planted 22 percent of their crop to finish the week with 78 percent of their acreage planted, 35 points ahead of normal. Meanwhile, emergence progressed by 19 points in Minnesota and 18 points in North and South Dakota. Barley growers had planted 81 percent of their crop, 22 points ahead of last year and 27 points ahead of normal. Emergence advanced to 45 percent, compared with 33 percent last year and 28 percent for the normal. Planting reached completion in Washington, 2 weeks ahead of normal. Meanwhile, North Dakota growers planted one-fourth of their crop and advanced to 38 points ahead of their 5-year average. Emergence was most rapid in Idaho, where 25 percent of the crop emerged. Oat seedlings advanced to 89 percent complete, compared with 78 percent last year and 71 percent for the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 16, 2004

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 16, 2004						GDD Base 40F Total
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F			
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN		
Northwest													
Erie	83	46	66	11	0.72	5	5.72	0.78	25	290	160	575	
Franklin	87	46	69	13	0.71	4	6.32	0.90	29	270	141	574	
Meadville	85	43	67	13	0.89	7	4.95	-0.22	26	253	147	528	
Mercer	84	37	66	10	0.57	3	4.10	-1.10	19	230	95	491	
Springboro	85	41	66	10	1.01	6	6.87	2.11	30	245	106	511	
Warren	86	47	68	13	1.49	5	8.82	3.34	28	263	144	551	
North Central													
Bradford Region	82	45	65	14	1.01	5	7.32	1.99	27	253	181	516	
Emporium	88	53	70	17	0.74	4	6.21	0.59	25	290	205	592	
Kane	80	42	61	10	1.96	3	6.68	1.03	20	131	62	341	
Laporte	86	49	68	12	2.27	7	8.08	2.81	28	244	105	514	
Lock Haven	89	49	71	15	1.44	4	7.78	2.87	19	338	181	705	
Port Allegany	85	49	67	14	0.97	4	7.52	2.58	23	242	149	498	
Renovo	89	51	71	14	0.38	2	5.57	0.66	20	325	168	662	
Ridgway	85	49	67	14	0.83	4	6.97	1.35	19	237	152	496	
Stevenson Dam	88	51	70	17	0.73	4	6.95	1.33	23	303	218	623	
Towanda	86	49	70	14	1.18	6	6.84	2.16	24	292	150	603	
Wellsboro	84	48	67	15	1.16	4	8.57	4.61	24	236	162	499	
Williamsport	87	55	72	13	0.66	5	5.94	0.80	27	363	160	740	
Northeast													
Hawley	86	43	67	13	0.56	4	6.75	1.27	23	232	139	504	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	88	55	71	13	0.37	3	5.78	0.97	18	326	155	672	
Susquehanna	90	50	70	17	1.83	5	5.96	0.28	22	289	207	612	
West Central													
Butler	84	48	69	13	0.51	4	5.96	0.74	24	287	136	591	
New Castle	85	46	70	14	0.65	2	5.63	0.87	21	305	164	620	
Slippery Rock	86	47	70	14	0.84	4	5.85	0.91	28	306	181	631	
Central													
Altoona/Blair	84	52	69	12	0.73	3	6.92	1.93	22	343	157	664	
DuBois	82	48	68	12	0.48	4	5.88	0.56	30	313	183	607	
Lewistown	88	48	71	12	1.03	4	7.24	2.24	23	355	132	722	
Middletown	86	60	74	13	0.58	3	7.12	1.68	20	421	161	825	
Prince Gallitzi	85	44	69	14	0.45	2	8.24	1.57	21	285	169	576	
Selinsgrove	87	48	70	13	0.84	4	7.65	2.56	23	325	144	680	
State College	87	51	72	15	0.38	3	5.96	1.26	20	352	184	688	
East Central													
Allentown-Bethel	87	57	72	13	0.27	1	5.45	-0.26	22	351	138	737	
Lehighon	87	50	70	12	2.30	3	8.08	2.54	21	319	117	677	
Matamoras	87	44	67	10	0.37	4	6.06	-0.16	22	245	81	558	
Tobyhanna	84	44	67	16	2.18	5	9.58	3.12	24	243	175	534	
Southwest													
Pittsburgh/Alle	84	50	71	14	0.24	2	4.96	-0.44	21	416	228	770	
Derry	85	54	70	13	0.38	3	8.43	3.10	26	345	192	677	
Myersdale	81	47	66	10	0.20	1	6.97	0.77	18	251	102	531	
Mount Pleasant	85	54	70	15	0.12	1	6.04	-0.18	15	340	222	663	
Pittsburgh Intl	86	50	72	13	0.40	3	5.68	0.73	20	417	210	769	
Rector	87	51	69	14	0.66	5	9.06	2.84	31	344	226	679	
Waynesburg	86	53	70	13	0.28	3	4.98	-0.51	20	349	177	678	
South Central													
Biglerville	88	47	73	12	0.75	3	8.18	2.89	23	389	130	763	
Everett	85	42	68	10	0.74	3	7.51	2.24	21	272	101	558	
Hanover	87	55	74	13	0.36	1	7.60	2.31	18	406	147	784	
Shippensburg	89	53	74	13	0.73	3	7.65	2.56	18	422	152	797	
South Mountain	83	47	69	12	1.01	2	9.45	4.46	18	323	143	640	
York	86	55	73	12	1.38	3	8.55	3.07	21	395	128	780	
Southeast													
Green Lane	94	51	74	16	0.75	1	6.28	0.43	21	413	216	822	
Hamburg	88	50	72	15	0.94	2	5.68	-0.67	23	363	209	748	
Hopewell	87	50	72	11	1.15	5	8.05	2.13	27	362	85	749	
Lancaster	85	56	73	14	0.92	3	7.81	2.44	24	393	177	788	
Neshaminy Falls	90	50	72	14	0.26	2	8.64	2.27	20	390	180	791	
New Holland	86	49	73	14	0.78	2	6.23	0.86	23	386	170	767	
Philadelphia	89	59	75	13	0.60	2	7.56	1.99	20	471	181	887	
Philadelphia NE	88	58	74	12	0.28	2	8.57	3.00	20	444	154	857	
Reading	88	57	74	15	0.63	3	5.41	-0.66	23	399	200	798	
Valley Forge Na	92	49	73	12	0.18	2	7.35	1.43	18	384	107	773	
Willow Grove	86	58	73	14	0.47	2	5.58	-0.79	21	415	205	823	

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

Centre County, Dick Decker - - Good conditions for field work continued most of the week. 3/4" of rain in the gauge for the week. Soybean planting well underway.

Crawford County, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - - Dairy farmers have just started cutting hay for silage. Oats are just about all planted and corn planting has been going good. In my drives around the county I see more cows out on pasture since the weather has improved. The warm and wet conditions have made rapid growth of pastures and hay fields.

Fayette County, Don Fretts (Ext) - - Excellent week for field work. Cereal Leaf Beetle attacking wheat.

Forrest County, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - - The wheat, barley, and oats are looking good. The warm weather last week help the corn to germinate. Clarion County has many fields with corn peeking through. Some farmers are making haylage and plowing sod down for corn. It appears we are going to have another week of good field work.

Franklin County, Thomas Kerr (FSA) - - Good week again for field work. Showers did not delay planting. Corn planting winding down in southern part of county while northern sections are now in full swing. Soybean planting in progress as well. Alfalfa hay being cut for silage in all parts of the county by end of the week. Quality was excellent, however growth was shorter than normal. Fruit crop still looking good. Some blocks of apples did not set well, but it appears that there will be a normal crop overall. Peaches excellent at this time.

Huntingdon County, Marina Kemper - - Thunderstorms every day this week. Hay needs made, and it's time to plant corn. I hope we get some of this rain this summer when we need it.

Indiana County, Kevin Fry (Ext) - - Many producers finished planting corn this past week and are now setting their sites on getting first cutting made. Very isolated showers throughout the week, one area will get over an inch of rain and just a few miles in either direction it didn't rain at all. Overall, things are beginning to dry out, we could use a little rain.

Juniata County, Dave Stetler - - In our area for the week the thunder showers were scattered until Friday afternoon when they all showed up at the same time and in a period of 1.5 hours there was 2.75 inches of rain. So the "to do list now has the item "road repair".

Lackawanna County, John Esslinger (Ext) - - Warm soil conditions are resulting in quick transplant establishment and good early growth of vegetable and fruit crops.

Montgomery County, Andrew Frankenfield (Ext) - - The calender said May but it felt like August all week. As the week progressed the field activities picked up planting corn and soybeans, making hay and balage, hauling manure, tillage you name it. Still there was ground by late in the week

that was still too wet for field work Saturday night 0.5 - 1 inch of rain across the county made for a well deserved nap on Sunday afternoon.

Montour County, George Hubbard (FSA) - - Hot humid weather last week pushed corn to a fast emerge and some of the corn planted early last week had 1 or two leaves by the end of the week. Rains of .2 to .6 inches Friday and or Saturday slowed progress some and with cooler temps drying is slower.

Potter County, David Stratton (FSA) - - Major rainfall last week slowed crop work till late in the week. Hay and pasture are growing fast with excess rain.

Schuylkill County, Terry Stehr (FSA) - - Storms on Saturday May 15th dropped 2.5 to 4.5 inches of rain in parts of the Schuylkill County. Areas which were open suffered serious gully erosion. The areas hit hardest are easily found through the dirt piles in the road.

Snyder County, William C. Sheaffer - - The beginning of the week was very hot and dry, that allowed for many field activities to take place; such as, spraying, plowing, planting corn, sowing soybeans, spreading fertilizer and manure, scouting fields for weeds and insects and repairing equipment. The field activities came to an abrupt stop as a result of heavy rains on Friday and Saturday with 1.6 to 2.7 inches of rainfall. Nevertheless, it was a good week

Susquehanna County, Willie Keeney (NRCS) - - The soil moisture is near capacity. Most hill ground is too wet to plant corn or harvest hay. Some no-till corn being planted. Fences being mended machinery being repaired in participation of the weather breaking. Some hay being harvested. The word at the coffee shop is looks like last year. Wet Wet Wet.

Tioga County, Linda Carmichael - - Field Activities have still been limited this week. The spotty afternoon and evening rain showers have continued all week. Managed to plant some oats, barley and corn between showers.

Tioga County, Pamela Barnes - - Another wet, wet week.

Westmoreland County, John Lohr (FSA) - - Summer-like temperatures provided excellent conditions all types of field work. Most of the county has not seen any of the isolated thunderstorms moving through the region this week and we are currently experiencing our longest rain-free period since probably April 2003. Some of the planted crops could actually use a good growing shower. The above-normal temperatures are quickly maturing the hay crop and some harvest activity has started.

York County, Wayne Kurtz (FSA) - - Corn planting continued unabated except for localized areas that received heavy downpours at the beginning of the week. Above normal temperatures has small grain and hay crops growing at a fast pace. Some haylage harvest was completed. The generally good conditions, good moisture levels and current market prices has given producers an optimistic outlook for 2004 at this time.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 16, 2004

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	85	81	83
Corn, planted	67	51	61
Corn, emerged	32	24	27
Barley, heading or headed	79	70	80
Wheat, heading or headed	27	15	33
Oats, planted	89	88	91
Oats, emerged	56	72	72
Soybeans, planted	27	13	22
Soybeans, emerged	8	3	6
Potatoes, planted	75	39	59
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	16	3	11

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 16, 2004

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	0	2	10	52	36
Wheat	0	1	16	60	23
Oats	1	3	30	56	10
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	3	22	52	23
Timothy clover stand	1	3	27	58	11
Quality of hay made	1	1	15	47	36
Pasture	1	3	18	54	24
Peaches	0	0	1	72	27
Apples	0	0	26	65	9

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